

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00322 01 OF 02 081724Z

ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 HEW-04

COME-00 /099 W

-----117770 081832Z /43

P R 081615Z JUN 78

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2914

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0322

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: INITIAL DESCRIPTION OF EASTERN
PROPOSAL TO AHG

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0319 071853Z JUN 78

1. SUMMARY: AT THE JUNE 7 MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP
JUNE 7 US REP, AFTER NOTING THAT IT WOULD CLEARLY BE
PREMATURE TO ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE THE EASTERN RESPONSE
TO THE WEST'S APRIL 19 INITIATIVE AT THIS POINT,
PRESENTED A PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF WHAT APPEAR TO
BE THE MAJOR POINTS OF THAT RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00322 01 OF 02 081724Z

2. THE BELIGAN REP, AS AHG CHAIRMAN, ASKED US REP
TO REPORT ON THE EASTERN PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD AT THE
JUNE 7 INFORMAL SESSION. US REP OPENED HIS REPORT ON
THE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WEST'S APRIL 19 INITIATIVE
BY CAUTIONING THE GROUP AGAINST EFFORTS TO MAKE AN
OVERALL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE RESPONSE SINCE SUCH

EFFORTS WOULD CLEARLY BE PREMATURE. SINCE WESTERN NEGOTIATORS WOULD NEED TO CLARIFY ELEMENTS OF THE RESPONSE IN SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL SESSIONS.

3. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO DESCRIBE THE MAJOR POINTS OF THAT RESPONSE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

THE EASTERN RESPONSE STATES THAT THE WEST MUST ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF APPROXIMATE PARITY. WESTERN REPS POSED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROVISION. THE NEW RESULT OF EASTERN ANSWERS APPEARS TO BE THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE RESPONSE ARE CONDITIONAL ON AGREEMENT ON DATA AND THE EAST IS INSISTING THAT ITS DATA IS CORRECT. HOWEVER, EASTERN REPS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF THERE WERE TO BE AGREEMENT ON A HIGHER LEVEL FOR WP GROUND FORCE MANPOWER, THE EAST WOULD TAKE WHATEVER REDUCTIONS WERE NECESSARY TO REACH THE 700,000 MAN GROUND FORCE CEILING LEVEL. THE MAJOR CONSEQUENCE OF THIS FACET OF THE EAST'S RESPONSE WAS TO PLACE STILL MORE EMPHASIS ON THE DATA DISCUSSION.

4. STAGE 8 OF THE EAST'S PROPOSAL CALLS FOR US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS EQUIVALENT TO 7 PERCENT OF THEIR GROUND FORCES IN THE REDUCTIONS AREA. THIS WOULD LEAD TO ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS AT A RATIO OF APPROXIMATELY 2:1. ALL REDUCTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN IN UNITS OR SUB-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00322 01 OF 02 081724Z

UNITS. THE EAST HAS ACCEPTED AN ASYMMETRY IN THE SIZE OF UNITS TO BE REDUCED AS SOVIET DIVISIONS WOULD BE REDUCED WHILE THE US WOULD REDUCE BRIGADES.

5. STAGE I ALSO CONTAINS EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF A SELECTIVE APPROACH TO PHASE I ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS WITH THE TWO SIDES NOW REDUCING DIFFERENT ARMAMENTS. THE US WOULD REDUCE 54 NUCLEAR-CAPABLE F-4S, 36 PERSHING MISSILE LAUNCHERS AND 1000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS WHILE THE SOVIETS WOULD REDUCE 1000 TANKS AND 250 MECHANIZED INFANTRY COMBAT VEHICLES (MICVS). THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE FROM THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 1976 PROPOSAL IN THE NUMBER OF TANKS THE EAST IS PREPARED TO REDUCE. RESIDUAL LIMITATIONS, HOWEVER, ARE TO BE CONFINED TO THOSE ARMAMENTS THAT THE WEST HAS PROPOSED TO REDUCE-- US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS AND SOVIET TANKS. IN THE SESSION, EASTERN REPS GAVE SOME RATHER WEAK ARGUMENTATION AS TO WHY MICVS WOULD NOT BE LIMITED UNDER ITS PROPOSALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00322 02 OF 02 081729Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 HEW-04
COME-00 /099 W

-----117881 081833Z /43

P R 081615Z JUN 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2915
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0322

6. IN STAGE I, ALL OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES INDIVIDUALLY TO REDUCE IN STAGE II BY ALMOST EQUAL PERCENTAGES -- 11.5 PERCENT FOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AND 13 PERCENT FOR WP PARTICIPANTS BASED ON EASTERN FIGURES. EASTERN REPS DESCRIBED THIS AS A COMMITMENT TO TAKE THE REDUCTIONS NECESSARY TO REACH A COMMON CEILING ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AS THE WEST HAD PROPOSED. THE RESPONSE CONTAINS NO EXPRESS COMMITMENT THAT NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MUST REDUCE ARMAMENTS IN STAGE II. HOWEVER, IN SECTIONS 6 AND 9 (SEE REFTTEL, THE EASTERN PROPOSAL IMPLIES THAT IF THERE IS NO STAGE II AGREEMENT ON ARMS REDUCTIONS, THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS CAN CHOOSE THEIR OWN APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE. BUT IN THE EVENT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TO FIND THIS WESTERN APPROACH UNSATISFACTORY, THEY COULD VOID THEIR STAGE I COMMITMENTS. THUS, THEY COULD CANCEL THE REDUCTIONS MADE IN STAGE I SHOULD STAGE II REDUCTIONS FAIL TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00322 02 OF 02 081729Z

FOLLOW THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED IN STAGE I ESPECIALLY WITH REFERENCE TO REDUCTIONS BY UNITS AND REDUCTIONS OF ARMAMENTS.

7. ON COLLECTIVITY, THE EAST HAS APPARENTLY ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT, BUT SUBJECT TO THE TWO IMPORTANT PROVISOS CONTAINED IN THE TEXT. THE EASTERN RESPONSE DROPS THE EAST'S PREVIOUS REQUIREMENT FOR AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS BUT INSTEAD IMPOSES A 200,000 MAN CEILING ON EACH SIDE'S AIR MANPOWER. EASTERN FIGURES SHOW THAT THE EAST HAS LESS THAN 200,000 AIR FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE AREA, AS DOES THE WEST. HOWEVER, REALLOCATED WESTERN DATA ON THE WP FORCES WOULD PUT THE EAST AT 227,000.

THE EAST ALSO PROPOSES ESSENTIALLY A FREEZE ON CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA WHO FILL MILITARY POSITIONS IN PEACETIME. THIS APPARENTLY WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE A LARGE WESTERN SUPERIORITY AS WESTERN INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE EAST EMPLOYS FAR FEWER PEOPLE THAN THE WEST IN SUCH CAPACITIES.

8. THE EASTERN RESPONSE ALSO PROPOSES THAT LIMITATIONS BE PLACED ON GROUND FORCE FORMATIONS AND UNITS SUBJECT TO REDUCTION. A FURTHER PROVISION STATED, AS HAD THE WEST'S APRIL 19 INITIATIVE, THAT THOSE PORTIONS OF THE EASTERN POSITION NOT ADDRESSED IN THE INITIATIVE REMAIN UNCHANGED. RESOR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MBFRV00322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780240-0098
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780682/aaaacscq.tel
Line Count: 195
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e729408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MBFR VIENNA 319
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2439571
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: INITIAL DESCRIPTION OF EASTERN PROPOSAL TO AHG
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e729408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014